

INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The people in southern Albania are discouraged and restive as a result of the inhumanity of the communist dictatorship and the cruelty of the Sigurimi. Only passive resistance is possible. For example, in some villages the farmers have refused to form agricultural cooperatives or to pay taxes. The peasants seem to be the most oppressed. They are required to give everything and in return get nothing. They do not receive food ration cards and the government forces them to sell their last possessions, even their oxen, if they cannot pay taxes.¹
2. The government forces farmers to pay production taxes, profit taxes, and subscribe to government loans. The regime used to give needy peasants six or seven kilos of maize per month, but even this was distributed with partiality toward communists.
3. The Free Market and Merchants operating their own shops are patronized by anyone desiring to sell unwanted possessions. Frequently people sell rationed goods and food to the free merchants for a profit. The free merchants are reported to be heavily taxed and regarded as enemies of socialism. The government operates "special" stores which compete with the privately owned shops in the free market.
4. Every village of over 50 houses (about 200 families) is required to furnish a quota of volunteer laborers, who are paid like regular laborers, for work on government construction projects.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		USIA/TRI	X	
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5. Travel is relatively unrestricted.

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6. Western publications are not available, however, communist books are easily obtainable.

7. Clothing and shoes are rationed, of poor quality, and expensive. Pre-war Western clothing and clothing from packages from America is sold in the free market. Fruits and vegetables were readily available in the free market in the summer. Although meat, cooking oils, eggs, and butter are rationed they can be found in the free market.

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